

The Newsletter of The Friends,
Patrons, Trustees and Volunteers
of the Rifles, Berkshire and
Wiltshire Museum



March 2025
Volume 6 Issue 1

Redcoats Review Tofrek Issue

Update on Project 25 from Nigel Walker, the Chairman of The Trustees

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am sending this message to you in order to keep you informed. It does not need to be distributed further unless you wish to send it to selected audiences. I have already informed the Wardrobe staff and the RWMT Trustees. I am pleased to inform you that we received confirmation from the National Heritage Lottery Fund that our application for a £168,295 grant has been approved by the Awards Panel.

This funding will support a range of initiatives aimed at transforming the museum into a valuable historical, educational, and community hub, providing space for events and activities for all ages.

Additionally, the grant includes funding for Phase 2 of Project Update 25, which will introduce audio and visual histories, temporary exhibitions, and initiatives to enhance financial sustainability. This phase also includes work on branding, our website, and the museum shop.

Per NHLF regulations, no funded work may commence before the grant is awarded. To comply with this, we deferred several workstreams within Update 25, while awaiting a decision.

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FUTURE EVENTS

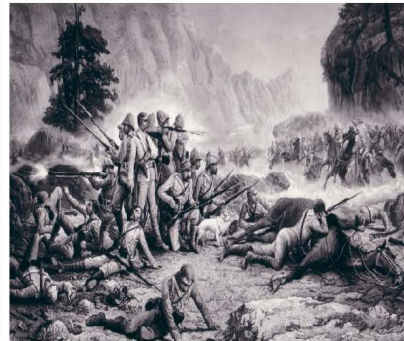
See page 19

PROJECT 25 UPDATE

Firstly just to remind everyone of the Projects objectives. We reproduce the original flyer flyer :

Update25 – Help us to bring our history to life The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum redevelopment project

The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum is home to over 250 years of military heritage, service and stories, from the Regiments of Foot to The Royal Berkshire and The Wiltshire Regiments, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and on to the modern-day Rifles. We preserve the memories of the people who have served in, and with, our regular and reserve battalions, through operations and conflicts across the globe. For over 40 years we have kept our stories alive in the minds of visitors from all over the world. To secure our future into the 21st century, we need to keep up with the changing expectations of museums. So, between November 2024 and March 2025, the museum will undergo an exciting major redevelopment to enable us to continue to capture the public imagination with our stories of 'Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage.'



Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage.

This is your story. Update25 will bring our history, to life, redeveloping all our display areas and using the best modern and interactive technology. Our new displays will be themed, educational, full of light, sounds and movement, engaging and immersive. We will showcase our history, interwoven with personal stories of service, battles, courage, military equipment, and the changing nature of conflict. In this way we will put the visitor into our old boots!

The Supporters Wall will bring our history to life by connecting visitors to your story of service.

This prominent display will feature real life profiles sealed on wooden tiles which rotate to reveal a summary of service. Visitors can interact with the wall and look through a manuscript which has a full page for each person, with more pictures and life and service details. Your photographs and history can also be recorded in our on-line archives.

As well as being featured in the manuscript and the wall, you'll receive two VIP tickets to the re-opening event, planned for Spring 2025, and a personal copy of the full manuscript. This is a unique and enduring opportunity to be a visible part of our history and support us in bringing it to life.

All who have served or been attached to our regular and reserve regiments (including 'in memoriam') have the opportunity to be featured on the wall, in return for a donation of £499.

Due to space limitations, there are only 99 tiles available. To secure your place, complete the attached application form and send your deposit. If you have questions, then email Update25@thewardrobe.org.uk



Nigel Walker was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in August 1972, stationed in Berlin. He served in mainland UK and Northern Ireland, including a tour with the Airborne Forces, and overseas in Germany, Cyprus, Hong Kong, and the USA.

Enlisted: September 1970

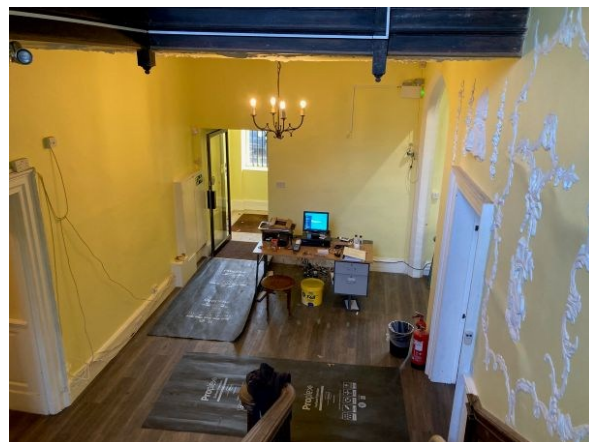
Retired: May 2012 in the rank of Major

In November 2024 all the display cases were emptied of the artefacts, archives and medals. These items were diligently inspected, wrapped in protective material and boxed. Each box, having its contents recorded using the Museum Accession number, was then placed in storage. Once the Display cases were emptied they were removed off site by a specialist museum conservation firm.

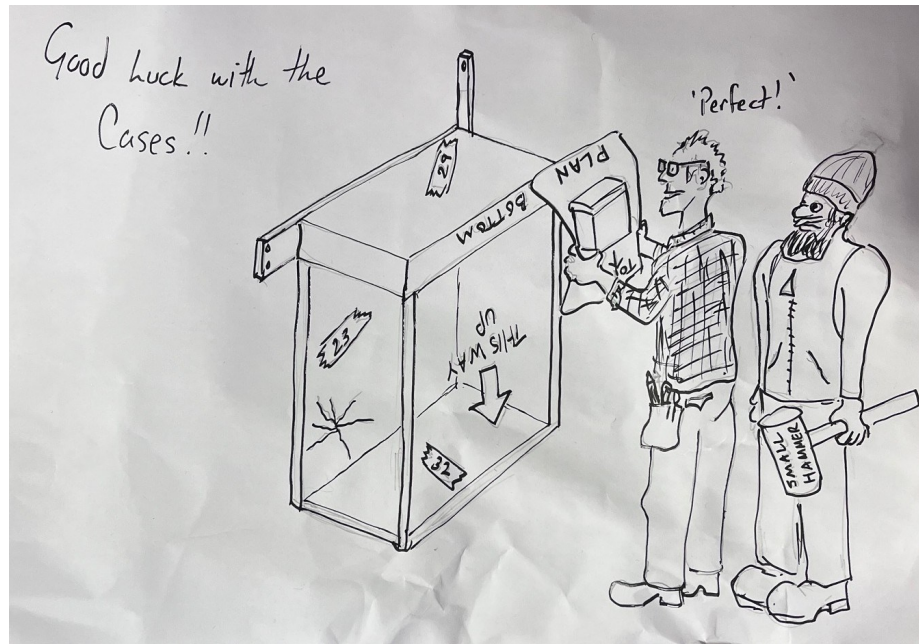


The Library being used as a temporary storage facility as have many of the other rooms on the first floor

With the four museum rooms completely empty work began in January of the removal of all the carpets, which have been replaced by laminated wood flooring , radiator's were replaced for more modern and efficient models, walls repainted and electrical rewiring undertaken. The images below provide a feel for the new flooring and paintwork.



Once the floor and walls had been given a fresh apparel it was time for the display cases to be brought back and to be placed into their new positions in accordance with the Scribble and Nonsense planning. Here we must pay tribute to the work of Nigel Walker and Alistair Rigg who have undertaken that aspect of the complicated work. I say complicated because each case was being placed in a different location to the original layout and the new flooring meant each case had to be levelled to ensure that it was rock steady and squared off.



A light hearted look at the plans Nigel and Alistair were having to fol-



A happy Alistair getting on with the challenge



A touch more challenging

“This pesky display case will not beat me” or words to that effect.



The more measured “Nigel” approach.

When the museum is open the major change we will notice is that visitors will be able to move around each room as they wish as opposed to a set rout the previous layout enforced. Additionally windows will not be boarded up so each room will additionally be able to show off the architectural delights of the building, thus hopefully making it a little more appealing a place to visit for the partners who have followed their military buff husbands under slight duress.

We cannot emphasize enough how much the Museum is indebted to the carpentry skills of Nigel Walker and his patient sidekick Alistair Rigg and the volunteers who have assisted namely David Chilton, Peter Smith, Sam Joyce (Bethany's son) and John Holt.

Now that display cases have been completed and have had their electrical power points and lighting enhanced, Bethany and Ross, with volunteers, will begin the task of installing the artefacts of telling the story of ordinary people with extraordinary courage through our regimental history.

PASSAGE OF INFORMATION FOR THE VOLUNTEERS

So that the volunteers weren't feeling left out Ross, or Marketing Officer provided us with regular updates, a sample of which we reproduce below, embellished where necessary with some explanations.

It's Friday once more, so here are your weekly updates (and yes before anyone mentions it, I know I forgot last week!)...

*Firstly, for the research, archive and collections volunteers. After a slightly panicky 24 hours, thankfully the Modes catalogue is back up and working again. Can I please remind all volunteers that if you are using the hot desk to access the Modes PC from home, please be very careful about what you are clicking on and, please, do not download any updates. **

Secondly, continuing this theme of maintenance issues. Despite the radiators in the archive room having been seemingly fixed last Friday, we returned to the museum on Monday morning to find that they're now off again. This has now been raised multiple times but we are still waiting for someone to come and take a look at them this week. As such, the little oil radiators are working overtime to keep the temperature up. I'm so very sorry to all those who work from the archive room for the prolonged disruption but please note that we are trying to get this fixed.

As the tone of this email has thus far matched the miserable February weather, I thought I would end on a more positive note. I would like to give a huge shoutout to Alistair, Nigel and their band of volunteers (Sam, David, Mervyn, amongst others who have helped along the way), as, thanks to their incredibly hard work, the display cases are very nearly rebuilt and in position. This will mean that our designers, Scribble & Nonsense, can come in to start the creative building work needed to revamp our galleries. This has been a monumental job, and I really wanted to take the opportunity to give them a shoutout for stepping up to the task. For those who are not on social media, please find attached the note sent to Alistair and Nigel from Scribble & Nonsense!

I look forward to seeing those of you who are planning on attending the tea/coffee get togethers either on Wednesday or Thursday. This will give us the chance to update you on the status of the project, whilst also giving us the opportunity to catch up having been closed for so long now. I think there are still a few who have not responded, so if you are still planning on coming, please do let us know!

Take care and have a great weekend.

** The problem the museum experienced with the Modes catalogue going off air was due to a Windows 11 update causing the Modes server to hiccup. As Robert, our Modes guru was out of the country, Ross was able to temporarily solve the matter by making the Modes Server restore itself to its settings prior to the Windows update. Though subsequent Windows automatic updates meant Ross had to repeat his conjuring tricks. Fortunately once Robert was back in the country his in depth knowledge computer programming and Modes overcame the problem.*

You will also note that some of the works being incorporated into the refurbishment may not have gone as smoothly as one would wish.. Heating issues and tripping of the electrical circuits have kept Bethany and Ross very busy at a time that they would have preferred concentrating on the new displays.

That said there is a positive vibe, a buzz plus an air of expectancy at the Wardrobe.

LITTLE HEARD OF OPERATION

'Operation Keelhaul'

Private Geoff Young

4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment



Private Young served and fought with the battalion from Normandy through to the final battles in Germany. After VE Day they were tasked to be deployed on an operation which was to send Russian Cossacks back to the Soviet Union under an agreement decided at the Yalta Conference. This did not go down very well with the soldiers from this Battalion, Private Young takes up the story :-

“As we were about to leave Uelzen and return to Winsen when one of our trucks arrived loaded with pickaxe handles. The unexpected delivery had us all puzzled, until a radio message told Major Gilson to take his company and drive to the Austrian border - about 300 miles away - to a Russian Cossack camp and ensure the Cossacks and their families board trains and return to the USSR. Major Gilson got us together and explained the situation. However, the majority of us knew that these Cossacks had been fighting for the Germans against the communist Russians and they had in fact given themselves up, with their families, to the British and. as such, should have been treated differently .

We didn't like the sound of it and the whole company went into heated discussion. Sergeant Dredge took on the roll of spokesman and told Major Gilson that, not only were we unhappy with the ethics of

this operation but we were refusing to take part. This put poor Major Gilson on the spot. He explained that it was Churchill's decision that the Cossacks should be returned. To which we all replied "*Tell Churchill to do it himself then*". (We later discovered that he never did give the order and to this day it is uncertain who did) Lieutenant Colonel Corbyn, the CO, just returned to the battalion after being wounded at Bre-men, was contacted and Major Gilson explained the situation. Who he spoke to we don't know but the next we heard we were stood down.

Twelve months later Private Young later spoke to a member of the 7th Hampshires in Hanover who during a discussion mentioned that his company had been tasked to carry out the operation at short notice. Many of the Cossacks committed suicide and those that were returned were either sent to the Gulags, or shot on the spot.)

Editor's Comments: Geoff Young was born and raised in Shrewton. He wrote an account of his exploits with 4th Wiltshires called "Private Young's War" which is sold through the Museum shop. Geoff was a great supporter of the museum even when he moved to Worcestershire.

If you are interested in purchasing his book go to:

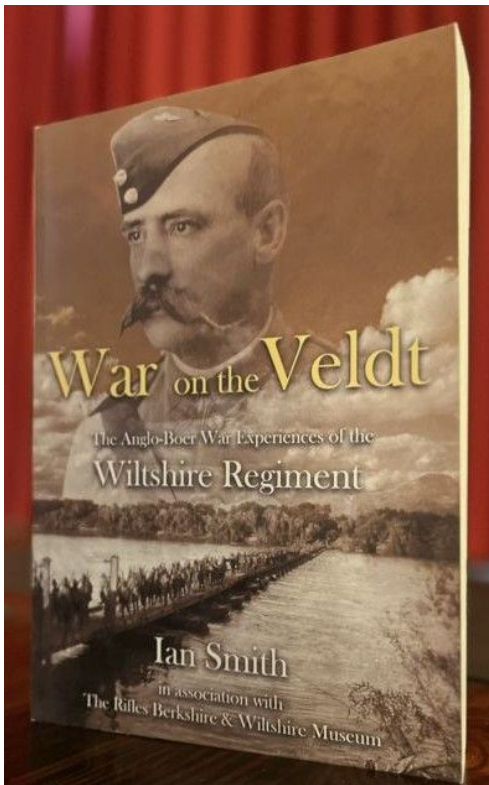
<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/shop/books-regimental>

BOOK REVIEW

By Will Bennett

***War on the Veldt, The Anglo-Boer War Experiences of the Wiltshire Regiment* by Ian Smith in association with The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum (published by The Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust, 2024).**

This history of the Wiltshire Regiment during the Boer War of 1899-1902 began with modest aims but grew into an all-consuming passion taking the author many years. Initially Smith wanted to find out what part his great grandfather Jack Heath had played in the conflict serving as a private in the regiment. What has emerged is a monumental record - more than 300 pages - of the regiment's history in a war which has now largely faded from public consciousness.



Helped by editing and indexing by David Chilton – a familiar figure to WFHS members – and input from volunteers at The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum in Salisbury, the result is a book of immense value to family and military historians, Boer War specialists, medal collectors and anyone with an interest in the Wiltshire Regiment. There is a full medal roll, a section on gallantry awards, mini-biographies of officers, and lots of photographs and maps. Most useful of all are the often graphic accounts of the war as seen by the regiment's rank and file trawled from diaries and letters, many of the latter published in newspapers at the time. These are honest descriptions of a brutal war where both sides were armed with high velocity rifles. The book covers every section of the regiment during the war, is packed full of names and will

save anyone researching an ancestor who served in the Wiltshires a great deal of time. It can be obtained from The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum at:

<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/shop/books-regimental>

IMPRESSIONS ON CAMPAIGN MEDALS

And Jottings on the Rank of Serjeant

by Michael Cornwell (formerly Cdt Sergeant CCF)

I hesitate placing this article after one above by Will Bennet, as the subject matter is one he is far better versed in than me. Then to compound matters even further we have another renowned medal collector in our archivist Chris Bacon.

Four the past few years the Museum Volunteers have trying to rationalise the medal collection not on display. Up until Covid-19 this work was being carried out by a lovely team of Ladies from the Salisbury Branch of The National Association of Design and Fine Arts Society (NADFAS), which has since been renamed the Arts Society. The team was led by Mrs Jill Makepeace Warne, who sadly died last year.

Once the pandemic had abated and volunteers were allowed back into the museum, Anita Taylor and I assumed the mantel of completing the task, here we are some three years later drawing to the end of the project.

One aspect that has intrigued both Anita and I has been the way medals have been impressed around the perimeter edge circular medals or on the reverse of star shaped medals in the case of the 1914 or 1914-15 Star with the recipient's details.



Early medals were impressed with the recipient's Forename or Initial, Surname and Regiment of Foot, shown above.



Later on this was changed to Rank, Surname and Regiment, as seen to the left

After 1880 it became Number, Rank, Initial, Surname and Regiment, as seen to the right.



For medals of the First World War, post WWI Campaign medals other than the Second World War the impression was Number, Rank, Initial, Surname and Regiment as shown in the examples below.



Once the rank appeared in the impressing the only way of spelling the Senior Rank wearing three chevrons was Serjeant, so the abbreviated rank appears as Sjt. That spelling continued to be the correct version until 1955, when for most of the Army the spelling changed to Sergeant, with the abbreviation of Sgt. So it is incorrect to think of Serjeant as being unique to the Light Infantry, Kings Royal Rifle Corps or Rifle Brigade.

In fact there are incidences of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regimental Journal using the spelling on Serjeant in the early issues and they were formed in 1959.

Whilst on the subject of senior ranks, pre World War 1 the senior non commissioned rank in an infantry battalion was Serjeant Major, and until 1813 the only other senior rank in the company or regiment was the rank of Serjeant.

In 1813 the rank of Colour Serjeant was introduced to reward long serving Serjeant, thus each of the Companies (a Grenadier, 8 times Infantry and a Light company) had a Colour Serjeant whose appointment became the Company Serjeant Major. And that is how it remained until 1913.

The badge of rank for the Colour Serjeant in 1813 lasted until 1856 when it changed; both examples are shown on page 13.



Colour Serjeant badge
of rank 1813 to 1856



Colour Serjeant badge
of rank 1856—1880

In 1913 the Infantry moved from an eight company orbat to a four company orbat and so had two Colour Sergeants. In each of the four companies the senior Colour Serjeant was appointed Company Serjeant major (C. S. M.) whilst the junior Colour Serjeant assumed the appointment of Company Quarter Master Serjeant (C. Q. M. S.)

Thus the badge of the C. S. M. was

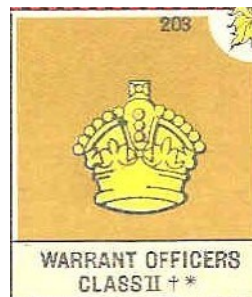


And that of the C.Q.M.S. was



You may be wondering what has the verbiage on rank to do with the impression on World War One medals but if one found a WW1 1914 or 1914-15 Star medals impressed with 1223 C. S. M. B Arkwright 5 Wilts one now realises that his rank was Colour Serjeant and his appointment was as C. S. M.

Now jump forward to 1915 and a new rank of Warrant Officer Class II is introduced which is for the appointment of C. S. M; so from 1915 onwards we would see 1223 B Arkwright's British War Medal and Victory Medal impressed as 1223 W. O. II B Arkwright even though he was doing the same appointment that he had been doing in 1914 or 1915. The badge of rank for the new appointment of Warrant Officer Class II is:



Staying with senior rank we find quite a few medals impressed with the rank of L/Sjt. To those who served in county regiments post the Second World War L/Sjt or L/Sgt indicates Local Sergeant, which enables the individual to wear three chevrons do the appointment of Sergeant but did not receive pay as a Sergeant.

But L/Sjt is the abbreviation for Lance Sergeant. Commonly used in World War to be given to Corporals so they could fill a post usually held by a Sergeant. The main difference between a Lance Sergeant and a Sergeant was that the Commanding Officer could remove the rank of Lance/Sergeant whereas it would take a Courts Martial to remove the rank of Sergeant.

Interestingly Second World War medals were not impressed for the UK Armed Forces, whereas the South Africa force Second World War medals were. There was a Boots offer to inscribe World War Medals free of charge but that was a personal choice.

Gallantry medals for soldiers are impressed and can tell an interesting account of the action which won the award. For example the award of the Military Medal may be impressed to Pte. A/LCpl. Temp Cpl T Atkins 8th R. Berks and then you find that the British War Medal and Victory medal are awarded to Pte T Atkins 8th R. Berks. What we will not necessarily know is why T Atkins did not retain NCO ranks and it would be wrong for us to surmise.

One aspect of the medal project was that if the individual, who had originally accessioned a group of medals, had not been diligent in their description of a particular medal it is easily possible to send people, *later on*, off on a goose chase. Previous volunteers, with no military background, have described a campaign medal as 'a military medal'. So when there is no Military Medal showing within that group, it set the pulses running; "we are missing a medal from this group".

Fortunately in Chris Bacon (the Archivist) and Will Bennett (another Archivist with a passion for medals) we have two experts and have been able to prove that the individual concerned was never awarded a gallantry medal.

One true anecdote. Some years ago we came across a 1962 Cyprus medal up for sale, it was impressed with the name of Captain V Ridley 1 Wilts. As a museum we contacted the auctioneer explaining Lt Col V Ridley was alive and that they should withdraw the medal. The auctioneer in fact contacted the vendor, an officer in the Royal Signals who had bought in good faith some years earlier from a reliable source. He withdrew the medals and returned it to our own Lt Col Vivian Ridley QGM.

IN MEMORIAM

Some of the longer serving volunteers may remember Mike Limbrick. Sadly Mike died on 23 January 2025 aged 87, after a long illness. He was a long serving volunteer, deciding to finally bring his volunteering with us to a close in 2017. He was a great friend of Richard Long Fox and together they did a lot to improve the record keeping on Modes. Condolences to the Limbrick family.

NEW INITIATIVE BY AMOT

ONLINE COFFEE BREAKS

Army Museum Ogilby Trust 12 March 2025

The Army Museum Ogilby Trust have launched a number of online monthly sessions titled 'Online Coffee Breaks' where speakers from within the Army Museums network as well as the wider heritage sector make presentations lasting about half an hour. The general idea was for contributors to share good practice and to hopefully pick up tips. In our museum's case a presentation was conducted by Beth the curator outlining the background and current state of play about UPDATE 25. The session was overseen by Jennifer Allison from AMOT, with people logged in and showing an interest in different parts of the world.

The museum session took place on Wednesday 12 March in the morning. Jennifer later wrote :-

"Another great coffee break this morning with Bethany Joyce from the Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum, complete with accompanying tiger in the background and an international attendee all the way from Boston, Massachusetts!"

The lady referred to from Boston USA was of particular interest to us as her interest related to a family member who served in the 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment in America. Several redcoat members were present online including one who shall remain unnamed who during the session listened intently, but carried on doing his ironing for all the world to see !!.

Once again contact with people across the pond in the states shows the value of the Museum website.

Several of the other museums who logged into the Online Coffee Break were amazed to hear of the recent success secured by our Trustees and the museum staff with the successful application for a National Heritage lottery Funding. No doubt they will be beating a path to Nigel and Bethany's door to find out their secret recipe.

The exposure for the museum, Bethany and the Trustees is a feather in their caps. Well done .

The attached image shows our curator Beth at the top accompanied by the tiger skin on the left looking rather frightening. (Is there a hidden message there?), with the AMOT representative Jennifer keeping order below.



The observant readers will note that the programme used for the webinar has picked up the name of the computer Bethany was using for the presentation

STOP PRESS

There is a risk of repetition in what follows as the details arrived just as we were going to publish; but rather than defer it to the next edition of the Newsletter we decided to publish anyway.

Museum Redevelopment Update

A huge thank you to all who have supported our Supporters' Wall by purchasing individual and group tiles. We are still waiting for some narratives and photographs—personal emails have been sent, so please respond as soon as possible to ensure the **Supporters' Wall is completed in time for 19th July 2025**. We have included some additional addressees on this update, who have expressed an interest. Please complete your application forms and pay your donation deposit to get into the process. We now have over 50 comrades on the wall, spread across over 40 individual and group tiles.

Project Progress & Timeline

This update provides an overview of the museum redevelopment, reopening plans, and ongoing fundraising efforts.

- The reception area, hallway gallery, and first gallery (*A Clash of Empires*) are fully designed and will be installed within the next four weeks.
- The second gallery (*The World at War*) is currently in the detailed design phase.
- The creation of battle boards, individual stories, and object labels has taken longer than expected, leading to some work being moved to Phase 2, supported by our National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) application.

As a result of these adjustments, **the formal museum reopening, originally planned for 10th–11th May 2025, has been rescheduled to 13th–14th September 2025**. Please mark this in your diaries—further details will follow soon.

In the meantime, the museum will **gradually open in phases** as each gallery is completed, ensuring progress continues while installations are underway. We aim to be **fully open in time for the “Summer @ The Wardrobe” regimental event on 19th–20th July 2025**.

Exciting News: NHLF Grant Approval

We are pleased to announce that in February, the National Lottery Heritage Fund approved our application for a £168,295 grant. This funding will help transform the museum into an engaging historical, educational, and community space, supporting events and activities for all ages.

The grant also funds Phase 2 of Project Update 25, which will introduce:

- Audio and visual histories
- Temporary exhibitions
- Financial sustainability initiatives
- Improvements to branding, our website, and the museum shop

As per NHLF regulations, no funded work can begin before the grant is awarded, which required us therefore to defer certain workstreams while awaiting confirmation. Although this has impacted our timeline, securing this funding is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to elevate the museum to the highest standards.

Fundraising Continues

While the NHLF grant is a major milestone, it covers only part of the redevelopment. Additional funds are still needed, and without them, we will need to spend our reserves. Your continued support is vital to ensure we can complete this project without compromising our long-term sustainability.

Get Involved – Volunteer for Summer Events!

We would love to see you at the museum and welcome **volunteers** to support our exciting **summer events programme**. Sign-up details will be shared soon, but here's a preview of what's coming up:

☐ 2025 Events Schedule

- **Sat & Sun, 7–8 June** – Folk & Arts Festival
- **Sat & Sun, 21–22 June** – *Castle Wardrobe* (Medieval Living History Festival)
- **Sat & Sun, 28–29 June** – Armed Forces Day (Stall)
- **Sat, 19 July** – *Summer @ The Wardrobe* (Regimental Event)
- **Sat & Sun, 26–27 July** – *Clash of Empires* (Peninsular Living History Festival – TBC)
- **Sat & Sun, 9–10 August** – *Victory* (Living History Festival)
- **Sat–Mon, 23–25 August (Bank Holiday)** – *Firepower* (Living History Festival)
- **Sat & Sun, 13–14 September** – **Formal Museum Opening & *World at War*** (WWI Living History Festival)
- **October (Half-Term)** – *Halloween Event*
- **Christmas** – *Details TBC*

Thank you for your unwavering support—we look forward to sharing more updates soon! Make sure you get some of these dates into your diaries and please come along to support us on the day.

Best regards,

The Wardrobe Team

The Redcoats Review and Farmersboys.org

By Jim Waterfall

I am the webmaster of the Farmers Boys website www.farmersboys.org working under the "Nom de Plume" The Web Orderly Sergeant. The mission of the website is to provide a central point for the veterans of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, providing a point of contact for all things DERR.

In late 2024 Martin McIntyre approached me and asked if I could provide a page on the website to publish The Redcoats Review, which I have done.

The latest version of the review appears on The Farmer's Boy website as an "e-Mag", in that the visitor can browse the review as if it were a physical publication rather than just a boring PDF, speaking of PDFs there is also an archive of reviews available to download as PDFs. Here's the link for the page <https://farmersboys.org/redcoats-review/>

I am currently working on the DERR history site which involves moving content from a defunct history site onto a new host. The previous site was created back in 2006 using what is now obsolete software. It is a slow and painful process but, to me, worthwhile

My main challenge with the history site is that most of the photos are of poor quality and lack or have poor descriptions so I am on the lookout for the original photos and proper descriptions . It took me a while to arrive at the format for the pages that I liked the Malta page was the eureka moment. Anyway, I hope you like my effort, here's the link

<https://history.farmersboys.org/>

Editors comment: Thank Jim for the article and also for enabling the Redcoats Review reach a wider audience. For the readership who did not serve in 1 DERR in 1982 the then Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment needed funds to complete the purchase of the leasehold of the museum. The Battalion members were marched down to the Regimental Pay Office where they were encouraged to donate a day's pay . The CO at the time was also allowed to donate profits from the machines in the Company Bars and the respective messes. His chosen charity that year was the Regimental Charity. Whilst the regiment has evolved and undergone further changes those Farmers Boys from that tour in Germany have always regarded the Wardrobe as their regimental home and have instilled that feeling in those who followed in their footsteps.

Chairman of trustees letter continued:

As a result, the project timeline will have to be adjusted, affecting the formal reopening date of the museum. We will defer this by a couple of months. Sat 10 May event will not now take place.

In the coming weeks, we will work closely with our NHLF Implementation Manager to finalise the contract, establish the funding profile, and replan project delivery. Once this process is complete, we will provide an update on the revised completion and reopening dates.

While any delay is unfortunate, I hope you will agree that securing such a substantial grant was well worth it. This funding represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the redevelopment of our museum, and we are committed to delivering it to the highest possible standard.

However, our own fundraising efforts must continue. The NHLF grant covers a specific and valuable part of the project, but we still need to secure additional funding, or we will need to utilise our own precious reserves to complete the redevelopment.

Thank you for your continued support, and I will keep you updated as we move forward. This is brilliant news!

Editor: Michael Cornwell
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Your web page on the Museum web site is:
<http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/museum/contact-us/support-us/friends-events-and-publications>